

# Connections

July 2009

## Contractor Selected to Complete Safe & Sound Bridge Program

by Bob Brendel

All the pieces are now in place to complete the Safe & Sound program – the largest bridge improvement program in Missouri history.

In a special late-May meeting, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission selected KTU Constructors to replace 554 bridges across the state through a design-build contract. Combined with another 248 bridge projects that MoDOT is completing through innovative contracting methods, Missourians will be driving across 802 new bridges by Oct. 31, 2014.

KTU's proposal, to build all 554 new bridges at a cost of \$487 million, was deemed by the commission to be the best-value. The full 802-bridge program is expected to cost \$700 million. MoDOT will sell bonds to finance the program, repaying them with annual payments of \$50 million coming from the federal bridge funds it receives each year. Over the life of the project that will represent a savings of \$500 million over the privately financed design-build-finance-maintain program that was determined by the commission last September to be unaffordable. It would have required payments in the \$65-74 million range over 25-30 years.

"The commission made the right decision last fall, when the nation's financial market meltdown made it impossible to proceed, and they made the right decision today," MoDOT Director Pete Rahn said following the selection meeting. "Missourians simply deserve better bridges and they will receive them through the Safe & Sound program, and at the lowest cost."

Kiewit Western Company, Traylor Bros., Inc., United Contractors, Inc., HNTB Corporation and The LPA Group, Inc. are the major players on the KTU Constructors team. They will be responsible for design, construction, project management and public outreach for all 554 bridge

*continued on page 2*



Shaun Schmitz

The Safe & Sound and KTU Constructors teams include, from left to right: Theresa Berendzen, MoDOT; Dave Koenig, MoDOT; James Peterson, HNTB; Jim Triplett, United Contractors; Chris Loeffler, Kiewit Western Co.; Debbie Lehmann, FHWA; Jerry Mugg, HNTB; Brian Carlson, HNTB; Randy Sanman, Kiewit Western Co.; Jerica Holtsclaw, MoDOT; Don Hillis, MoDOT; Ken Warbritton, MoDOT; Troy Heckmaster, Kiewit Western Co.; Wayne Ellenberger, The LPA Group; Stacy McMillan, MoDOT; Scott Cassels, Kiewit Western Co.; Bob Brendel, MoDOT; Mark Croarkin, MoDOT; Gregg Teets, Kiewit Western Co.

## It's All About You!

### WorkLife Centers Help Employees Balance Life, Work

by Sally Oxenhandler

"If mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy."

You've probably seen this infamous saying on refrigerator magnets, throw pillows and plaques adorning kitchen walls. The saying suggests you need to keep "mama" happy or everyone suffers, including mama, and that's not good.

In some ways, the same can be said for us MoDOT employees. If things are stressful at home, it's often hard not to bring that tension to work. If things are hectic and difficult on the job, the pressure might affect your personal life.

Enter the concept of WorkLife Centers, a best practice adopted by top private sector

organizations and now MoDOT. WorkLife Centers are designed to help employees balance their work and home lives and grow both professionally and personally. Specifically, MoDOT's WorkLife Centers provide employees with a single point of access to hundreds of resources and information on topics ranging from aging

parents to yoga (that was as close as I could come to a topic starting with z).

"WorkLife Centers offer employees a one-stop shop for a variety of services, whether it's accessing forms, signing up for classes or taking advantage of self-assessment ma-

*continued on page 3*



## Inside

6



### Winner!

Student wins new car in safe driving campaign in D1

9



**kcICON Award**  
Outstanding community relations work in D4

11



### In Case of Emergency

D6 teamwork keeps traffic smooth

12



**Taking Shape**  
New I-44 / Route 39 Interchange at Mt. Vernon in D7

15

### Making a Difference

Sidewalk improvements make life easier in D10



# Ride for Remembrance

## Fundraising Continues for the Fallen Workers' Memorial

photos by Shaun Schmitz



On June 13, motorcycle riders raised money for the Fallen Workers' Memorial. The ride ended in Jefferson City at a rally and barbecue.



The Ride for Remembrance was sponsored by the Transportation Employee Association of Missouri.

# SharePoint Offers Employees New Level of Collaboration

by Matt Hiebert

An important component of the Next Generation Desktop program that will be new to all our employees is SharePoint. This powerful tool is a document and records management system that allows employees to collaborate and manage information at a level never before possible.

Have you ever been working on a team and had to get input on a document from a variety of people? Since they couldn't get to your J-drive, you probably had to e-mail it to all of them, get their changes and then manually enter them in the master document.

SharePoint will make it possible for all team members to access the live document, make changes, discuss edits and share ideas without playing e-mail ping-pong.

SharePoint looks like an intranet site, but it's not. Although you view and navigate the platform in a browser, SharePoint is "task-oriented." This means you don't just get information from the pages; you can do your work through them. It is so powerful it may one day replace our J and P drives!

Information Systems will be the first division to use this tool beginning this month. From there, IS will bring in other district and division offices until all MoDOT is working together on SharePoint.

Get started with your SharePoint training by visiting the intranet site at [http://spwiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://spwiki/index.php/Main_Page).

# MoDOT Emergency Communications System Receives International Award

by Patty Bloom

In a field where Pulitzer and Nobel prizes don't exist, the MoDOT emergency communications network is receiving international recognition. The system, which recently won the International Satellite Communications exchange (ISCe) Innovation and Technology Award, is changing the way communities will recover from unforeseen events.

Severe weather often leaves communities with the chaotic process of rebuilding and recovering. If flooding, severe storms, or earthquakes should disrupt terrestrial communication, Traffic Communication Coordinator John Diggs and Senior Traffic Technician Cris Kallenbach are dispatched to re-establish communications, allowing the community to get back on its feet as quickly as possible.

"This system is changing the way communities recover from unforeseen events," said Diggs, one of the net-

work's developers. "It gives agencies access to the resources they need to rebuild after emergencies."

The new system uses satellites and radio towers throughout the state to send radio transmissions, data communications, and interoperability communications.

Another component to the program's success is the Mobile Emergency Response Operations Center (MEROC) trailer. The three MEROC trailers support local government communications and help coordinate disaster relief.

The MEROC trailer has been used four times in its history: during ice storms in Springfield and Dallas County and flash floods in Clarksville and Greenville.

The ISCe award originated in 2002 to recognize innovation and advancement in the satellite and communications industry.

# Safe & Sound Contractor

continued from page 1

replacement projects, and will be joined by many Missouri-based subcontractors and materials suppliers.

KTU spokesman Kent Grisham said, "This is an exciting project and we are proud to have been entrusted with it. We have already begun the process of identifying Missouri subcontractors and suppliers because buying and hiring locally is going to be a high priority for us; along with our absolute commitment to building these bridges safely, on time and on budget."

KTU's bid was more than \$31 million lower than the other proposer, Missouri Bridge Builders. Bridges Across Missouri, another team that had been under consideration, did not submit a final proposal.

"Ultimately we had two quality teams who could deliver this project. KTU Constructors, though, will deliver it most economically," Rahn said.

Speed of construction and flexibility in construction schedules to respond to lo-

cal issues were also critical components of MoDOT's program requirements. For 493 bridges on low-volume routes, the contract requires that the average closure be 45 days. The remaining 61 bridges will either be closed, built in stages, or utilize bypasses to minimize impacts to motorists. MoDOT also has the ability to move 120 bridges within KTU's schedule, with certain conditions. KTU also committed to completing all 554 bridges by the end of 2013 – 10 months early.

KTU has indicated that a few bridges will be built yet this year, but that they will spend most of the rest of 2009 gearing up to launch construction in a big way in early 2010. They will set up a main office in Kansas City to administer the program, with up to four regional offices to manage work in the field.

For more Safe & Sound information, and to follow the progress of individual projects on an interactive map, visit the Web site at [www.modot.org/safeand-sound](http://www.modot.org/safeand-sound).



## 2009 Legislative Session Wrap Up

The good, the bad and the ugly. Although not exactly in that order, those words pretty much sum up the 2009 legislative session.

While the passage of a primary safety belt law was the commission and MoDOT’s number one legislative priority, the measure failed to gain enough support to advance for passage into law. However, the failure to pass a primary safety belt law wasn’t from a lack of trying on the part of MoDOT and about 3,000 Missouri grassroots supporters of the initiative.

Another massive disappointment was the General Assembly’s repeal of Missouri’s motorcycle helmet law. Among other things this act may, if signed into law, exempt persons 21 years of age or

older from wearing protective headgear except when operating or riding motorcycles or motortricycles on interstates. Governor Jay Nixon has until July 15 to either sign or veto the act.

There were some positive outcomes. Legislation was passed to help MoDOT provide better incident management by authorizing faster removal of abandoned property on the right of way on any highway outside of an urban area. Now the abandoned property can be removed if left unattended for 24 hours, rather than 48 hours.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 was passed, indicating the state’s support toward maintaining a navigable depth on the Missouri River so it can become a more reliable alternative for moving freight.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission was also granted the right to enter into more than three design-build highway project contracts. However, the total number of contracts cannot exceed two percent of the total number of all state highway system projects listed in the commission’s approved STIP for that fiscal year.

Additionally, a piece of property located in St. Louis City, which is currently being used by the Department of Corrections as a minimum security correctional facility, was conveyed to the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for the new Mississippi River Bridge project.

Among various other changes to existing law relating to transportation, Mis-

souri created a new law called “David’s Law.” Under this act, MoDOT shall establish and administer a drunk driving risk reduction awareness program and signs, yet to be developed, shall be placed at or near the scene of the accident.

Several highway and bridge designations were also made, including a new interstate interchange designation program, to be known as Heroes Way. This program will honor fallen Missouri heroes who have been killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces in Afghanistan or Iraq on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

## It’s All About You!

*continued from page 1*

terials,” said Ashley Halford, a senior human resources specialist who coordinates Central Office’s WorkLife Center. The Central Office center is cleverly dubbed the MEE Zone for MoDOT Employee Enrichment Zone.

The WorkLife concept is not new. In fact, there is significant research that shows organizations with WorkLife programs experience increases in productivity, employee satisfaction and recruitment and retention, while enjoying lower absenteeism.

“Our employees dedicate a significant amount of their time to MoDOT, sometimes at the expense of their families,”

said Human Resources Director Micki Knudsen. “Offering them the support they need to juggle work and life is a wise investment. It makes employees happier and more productive and shows we care about them as people.”

The St. Louis Area District was the first district to implement the WorkLife concept, with the rest of the districts soon following. Each district has implemented the program in the way that best meets their employees’ needs given available resources. The Northeast District, for example, decided to physically relocate staff from Human Resources, Business and Benefits, Safety and Risk Management and the Credit Union into one central area.

“We wanted to offer an inviting, yet efficient, setting to help our employees address work and life issues,” said Paula Gough, district engineer for the Northeast District. “The success we have seen thus far has been the teamwork involved in planning for the WorkLife Center, the subsequent teamwork for relocation and renovation, and the growing One Team approach to offering these services. We are also very excited about the opportunity to offer additional services as we become more efficient through sharing work tasks among the WorkLife Center staff.”

Halford has been promoting WorkLife services at divisional staff meetings and orientation for new employees. She says her main challenge is convinc-

ing employees to find time to use the services.

“We want employees to feel like they can take the time to use the WorkLife Center resources,” Halford said. “It’s a lot like performing preventative maintenance on your car. The investment you make will save you time and money in the long run and help you be the best employee you can be.”

Employees can expect WorkLife services to continue to expand. Halford, for example, would eventually like to provide a blog on the MEE Zone site so employees can network on topics of shared interest, such as taking a professional exam.

*For more information on MoDOT’s WorkLife Centers, contact your Human Resources representative.*

## Seventy Days of HEAT

The HEAT is on this summer and it won’t just be 90-degree August days. For the past four years, Missouri has recorded the highest number of fatal and serious injury crashes between July and September.

This summer law enforcement is partnering with MoDOT Highway Safety to take precautions to reverse this trend. Law enforcement agencies across Missouri will be using High Enforcement Action Teams to

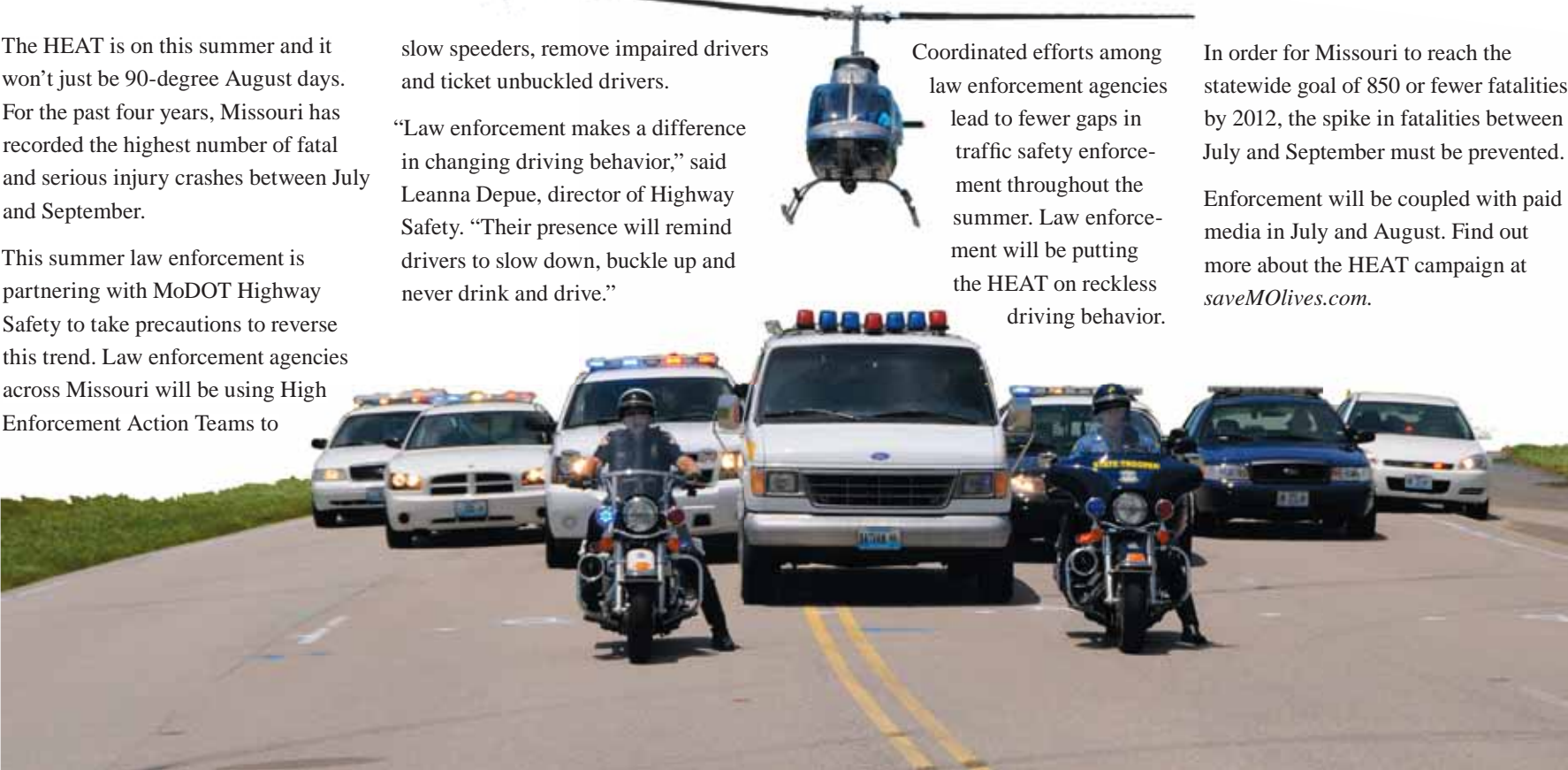
slow speeders, remove impaired drivers and ticket unbuckled drivers.

“Law enforcement makes a difference in changing driving behavior,” said Leanna Depue, director of Highway Safety. “Their presence will remind drivers to slow down, buckle up and never drink and drive.”

Coordinated efforts among law enforcement agencies lead to fewer gaps in traffic safety enforcement throughout the summer. Law enforcement will be putting the HEAT on reckless driving behavior.

In order for Missouri to reach the statewide goal of 850 or fewer fatalities by 2012, the spike in fatalities between July and September must be prevented.

Enforcement will be coupled with paid media in July and August. Find out more about the HEAT campaign at [saveMOLives.com](http://saveMOLives.com).



Cathy Morrison

# Touring MoDOT: A Great Learning Experience

by Pete Rahn

In the past few months, I’ve been making the rounds visiting our districts. The stops have given me a chance to hear what’s on your minds and meet with members of the community and media to discuss transportation issues. While it’s been great getting around to the districts, I still wish I had more time to meet with all of you. Because I can’t do that, I wanted to share with you some of the things I learned talking with you and touring the state. These are in no particular order - just my observations:

- Some people think they’re invincible and are never going to buckle up

(picture me shaking my head here).

- The public thinks the economic stimulus bill will solve all our transportation needs. In fact, while welcome, it’s only about a third of our annual construction budget.
- Like me, you are concerned with how we’re going to continue to maintain our 33,685-mile highway system given decreasing funding. It’s a valid concern and the reason our primary challenge is finding an additional revenue source for transportation that the public will support.
- The poor economy is taking its toll on communities and their citizens.

Regardless, we intend to keep our staffing levels as they are to ensure we can respond to emergencies and deliver our STIP and economic stimulus projects.

- Innovation is the key to success. Innovative ideas continue to spring forth from all areas of the department. They make our jobs safer and more efficient and allow us to better serve Missourians. Keep them coming!
- Peter Drucker, the well-known management consultant, said, “Efficiency is doing things right; effectiveness is doing the right things.” My tours showed me that we not only work hard to do things right, but we always strive to do

the right things. We continue to bring projects in on time and under budget, provide a dollar of value for every dollar we spend and be open and transparent in the process.

- Missouri is setting the pace when it comes to transportation. Other states are copying such successful efforts as our Planning Framework, Practical Design, Tracker and Operation Orange, to name just a few.

Thank you for your dedication to providing outstanding service to Missourians. I always think you can’t do more . . . and you do. I’m privileged to be part of such a great organization!

## MOre Fun than Ever at the State Fair

The Missouri State Fair is promising “MOre Fun Than Ever” during its 11-day run, Aug. 13-23. MoDOT is gearing up for this year’s fair with all the usual attractions in our ever popular, lush and shady Highway Gardens and exhibit hall, as well as some new attractions.

The Transportation Exposition Center will be fully loaded with interactive displays on department programs and activities featuring games, contests and giveaways. Kids can participate in a transportation scavenger hunt and have a chance to win a brand new bike and helmet. New this year is a backstage recording studio where teens can film

their own seatbelt dance video and enter to win a Flip Mino Camera, 8GB iPod Nano and gas cards.

The annual No MOre Trash! Day will be held on Friday, Aug. 14, with special activities including appearances by Buttons the Clown, trash can painting, games, cookies and more. MoDOT will stress the importance of litter prevention and keeping Missouri’s roadways clean of trash and debris. Adopt-A-Highway and Sponsor-A-Highway tables will be available for those interested in helping preserve the tranquility of nature along local highways.

Other fair highlights include a wide array of food that can only be found at the fair, a free circus, a farmers market, a rodeo, rides on the midway, concerts by entertainers like Heart, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Brooks & Dunn and Shine Down, a show by the group Vocal Trash and the Missouri State Fair Idol. Admission to the State Fair varies by day and time. Normal daily admission is \$8. Visit [www.mostatefair.com](http://www.mostatefair.com) to find out more.



### July Service Anniversaries

<b>35 Years</b>	
John B. Christy	D2
Kurt A. Spindler	D3
Carolyn M. Brockes	CO
<b>30 Years</b>	
Darrell W. Britt	D3
Mark E. Sprock	D3
Andy O. Core	D8
Teddy E. Dement	D9
Sue W. Cox	CO
<b>25 Years</b>	
Milton N. Wright	D2
Kenny Glover	D3
Ervin H. Fackler	D3
James L. Lennox	D3
Dale W. Morrow	D3
Becky L. Wheatley	D4
Wendy L. Brooks	D6
Lester R. Shears	D6
David R. Shoemaker	D6
Mackie L. Gaddis	D8
John O. Hayes	D9
Paul D. Suver	D10
Lisa M. Elliott	CO
Sherry K. Grannemann	CO
<b>20 Years</b>	
Leo J. Healy	D2
Toni F. Terry	D4
Vicki L. Hass	D4
Ronald E. Cordes	D4
Brenda M. Dudenhoeffer	D5
Phillip A. Wilson	D6
W. L. Strickland	D8
Randy L. Garrison	D8
Douglas E. Foley	D8
Victoria L. Woods	D9
Wilma J. Degraffenreid	CO
Linda K. Henderson	CO
Karmen S. Stockman	CO
Regina R. Wilson	CO

<b>15 Years</b>	
Debra A. Malone	D3
Sherri L. McGregor	D3
Mike L. Sanders	D4
Rocky D. Majors	D4
Kenny J. Krieg	D5
Bruce D. Volkart	D5
Charles W. Brandes	D5
Eve E. Black	D6
Ronald L. Kuhn	D7
Travis N. Jones	D7
Monty B. Hawks	D7
Richard K. Heckendorn	D8
Mary J. Bruning	D9
Matthew J. Davis	CO
Melinda K. Grace-Beasley	CO
James P. Harcourt	CO
Donald R. Hilt	CO
Kevin W. Wegener	CO
<b>10 Years</b>	
Marion L. Pryor	D1
Brian M. Rosenthal	D1
Gary D. Hart	D1
David L. Doss	D1
Larry W. Moore	D2
Daniel L. Koch	D2
Ervin J. Sims	D4
Dennis R. Mathews	D5
Daniel D. Weaver	D5
Robert J. Hawkins	D6
Dale S. Crane	D6
Robert P. Ray	D6
Jermyn Johnson	D6
Richard E. Danner	D7
Gale L. Garner	D8
Robin K. Jackson	D8
Donnie A. Crisp	D9
Larry J. Davis	D10
Gilbert W. Scherer	D10
Lucille F. Goff	CO

Danny R. Marsh	CO
Travis A. Tomson	CO
<b>5 Years</b>	
Rodney W. Messner	D1
Allen Cockriel	D1
Darrin G. Garrett	D1
Kerry A. Harvey	D2
Richard L. Detienne	D3
Dennis H. Kopp	D3
Robert L. Adkisson	D3
Connie J. Krigbaum	D3
Lindsay B. Vogt	D4
Varnice Allen	D4
Scott M. Thurston	D4
Anthony W. Delce	D4
Matthew L. Sperry	D4
Jesse A. Dunkle	D4
Travis J. Teter	D5
James W. Feeney	D6
Christine E. Scholz	D6
Michael A. Alexander	D6
Charles L. Hawkins	D6
Lawrence L. Layton	D6
Bobby S. Blandford	D6
Kevin R. Wildhaber	D6
Dennis G. Heidlage	D7
David R. Leonard	D7
Jack S. Pate	D7
Kenneth H. Stewart	D7
Mark A. Stiles	D8
Travis D. Tucker	D8
Samuel T. Peifer	D9
Weston M. Carter	D9
Anthony C. Marzuco	D9
Wayne B. Debrock	D10
Brian L. Mason	D10
Derrick J. Norris	CO
Richard P. Rahe	CO
Brison J. Wallace	CO

### May Retirements

Name	Location	Years of Service
Noble Nelson	D10	23
Donald Hanson	D1	7
Dickie Parshall	D1	2
Donnie Kinsler	D3	35
William Mingee	D4	31
Robert Pruitt	D4	11
Robert Johnson	D5	27
Rose Larocco	D6	16
William Revelle	D6	37
Jerry McFarland	D7	29
Richard Helvey	D9	22
Robby Rakestraw	D9	24
Carroll Duncan	CO	22
Alma Baldwin	CO	8

### In Memoriam

<b>Active</b>		
Robert “Glen” G. Jordan	D10	May 5
<b>Retirees</b>		
Marvin D. Scott	D 7	April 25
Linel F. Rowland	D4	April 27
Arthur L. Dunston	D3	April 29
James W. VanHooser	D3	April 30
Estel W. Abernathy	D10	May 6
Dennis C. McGuire	D6	May 7
Sanford E. Carter	D9	May 11
Robert E. Cameron	D4	May 13
Poley R. Howard	D4	May 16
August “Foster” F. Welty	D1	May 17
Leonard W. Peters	D6	May 30





# Communication Awards

Members of the Multimedia Services and Community Relations staff were honored with awards from the International Academy of Visual Arts. The Communicator Awards is the leading international awards program honoring creative excellence for communications professionals. Winners were chosen from more than 9,000 entries from companies and agencies of all sizes.

Senior Graphic Designer Dennis Forbis received the Award of Excellence, the academy's highest honor, for the "Don't Barrel Through Work Zones" billboard, in the Billboard category. He also received the Award of Distinction for the Going Green brochure in the Green/Eco-Friendly Campaign category.



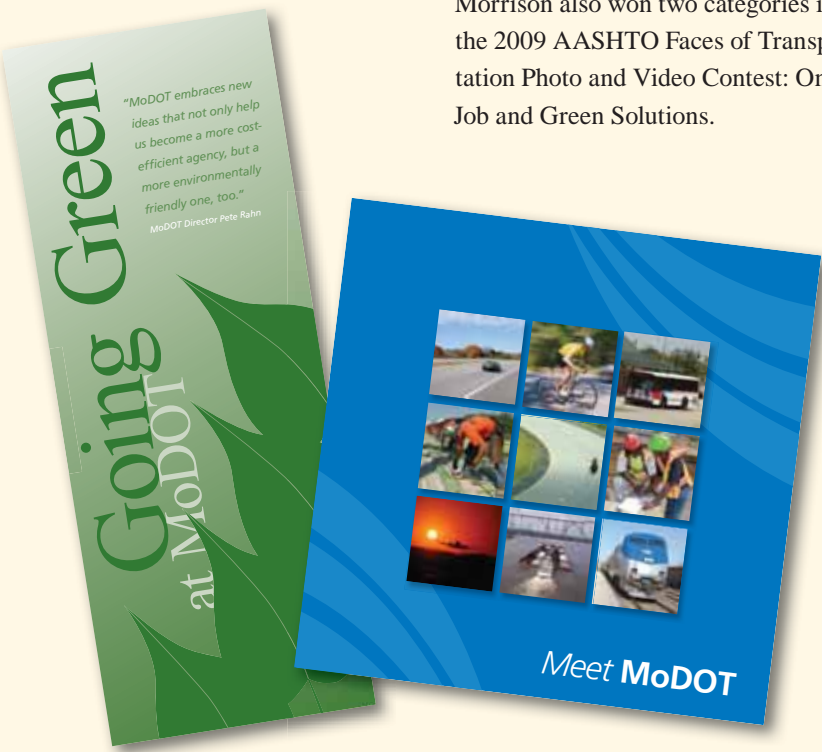
Several employees were also honored with the Award of Excellence for the "Meet MoDOT" brochure. The brochure won in three categories: Overall Design, Company Overview and Photography. Graphic Designer Allison Campbell designed the piece, with content provided by Community Relations Coordinator Kristi Jamison and photos provided by MoDOT Photographers Catherine Morrison and Shaun Schmitz.



Senior Electrician Dennis Hixson is featured in one of Cathy Morrison's winning shots for the AASHTO Faces of Transportation photo contest. The photo above features MoDOT's shingle recycling efforts.



Morrison also won two categories in the 2009 AASHTO Faces of Transportation Photo and Video Contest: On the Job and Green Solutions.



## for more info

Connections Editor  
Phone  
E-mail  
  
105 W. Capitol Avenue  
P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Laura Holloway  
573.751.5985  
laura.holloway@modot.mo.gov

# New MoDOT Blog Engages Customers

MoDOT has changed the look and format of the Post a Comment blog to offer a personal touch. A panel of authors contributes regularly to inform customers about current activities in a conversational style and begin a dialogue with the public.

A blog is an online journal where readers can comment and begin conversations with other readers. Blog use and topics are as varied as the people who contribute.

MoDOT's Post a Comment blog is a fantastic opportunity to engage the public and include pictures, maps, short videos and relevant Web links. Each entry opens up the opportunity for feedback that can shape future programs at MoDOT.

While statewide initiatives are often included, it is also a venue to feature more unique stories and events



within the department, such as using a litter-picker in District 6 or a personal perspective on safe driving habits.

Check out the new format at [www.modotblog.blogspot.com](http://www.modotblog.blogspot.com) for everything from a short video of a school presentation to the most recent funding issue analysis. Then be sure to pass it along to your friends and family!



More than 70 children of Central Office employees participated with their parents in Take Our Child to Work Day June 10. Activities included a presentation on historic preservation, as well as lab tours and an equipment demonstration.

# MoDOT's Chief Financial Officer Receives CPA Award

The Missouri Society of CPAs has named Roberta Broeker, chief financial officer, the 2009 Outstanding Certified Public Accountant in Government.

The award honors a certified public accountant who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the public interest through distinguished achievements in government. Nominees are evaluated on their visionary leadership, accountability, integrity, analytical skills and dedication to making a difference for citizens.

Broeker joined MoDOT in 1998 as an internal audit manager. When she was named chief financial officer in 2005, she became the highest-ranking female in the department's history.

In addition to overseeing MoDOT's \$2.7 billion budget, Broeker directs the support divisions that ensure MoDOT



is able to deliver quality road and bridge projects on time and within budget. They are the controller's division, resource

management, human resources, information systems, equal opportunity and diversity, general services, and risk and benefits management.

A native of Washington, Mo., Broeker graduated magna cum laude from Southeast Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She is a certified public accountant, a certified internal auditor and a certified government financial manager.



# D1

## Northwest

### Last Month in the Northwest District

story and photos by M. Elaine Justus

The biggest story of last month was the “I’m a Safe Driver” car giveaway that took place Saturday, May 16, 2009. The Northwest Region’s Blueprint for Safety group and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety were primary supporters of the program along with the St. Joseph Police Department.



The “I’m a Safe Driver” campaign reaches out to high schools in the St. Joseph metropolitan area by having them register at the beginning of the school year with a pledge to drive responsibly. Once a month, throughout the school year, registration cards are drawn for free prizes, and only students with a clean driving record can win. During the current campaign, monthly prizes included \$1,000 of free gasoline, 80 meals at Chipotle, and 80 meals from the local Hy-Vee. A total of 556 students entered the program this year. Of those, 80 students received

the prizes listed above. There were nine students disqualified as a result of traffic citations. Each of the 80 winners was eligible to participate in the grand prize drawing.

The local Cecil Myers Mitsubishi car dealership donated a silver 1998 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS, but the winner had to be present to accept their prize, and their driving record must still be clean. Caitlyn Morgan Strong, a 15-year-old student at Benton High School, was very excited to claim her prize.

Another Blueprint event in May was the Annual N.W. Missouri Substance Abuse Prevention Conference sponsored by the St. Joseph Youth Alliance. It was held on the campus of Missouri Western State University again this year. The Blueprint Coalition, through funding and participation, helped make it possible. The conference draws counselors and youth advocates from all over the state of Missouri and beyond. Our booth provided information about the impacts of driving impaired and not wearing a seatbelt. Both are poor choices when driving a car.



Another big event that was announced this last month is the date for the



groundbreaking of the new Amelia Earhart Memorial Bridge across the Missouri River at Atchison, Kansas. The bridge is the primary responsibility of the Kansas Department of Transportation, but MoDOT, who is sharing half the cost of the structure, would never miss a party! Rumor had it that Transportation Director Pete Rahn had been in close communication with Kansas’ Transportation Secretary Deb Miller to find a date that was mutually agreeable. The final decision: July 2, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. at the Veterans’ Park in Atchison. A huge turnout is expected for this groundbreaking because of the support of the local community. They have been active participants since initial discussions about replacement began over a decade ago. As you can see from the artist depictions of the new

bridge, it will be very striking. Funding has even been secured by the Kansas

DOT to provide decorative lighting, making the structure even more dramatically beautiful.

The Safe & Sound program is proceeding well in the North-



west District. As of this publication deadline, six bridges have already been completed with six more currently under construction. We are making a good dent in our published goal of completing 155 bridges in the next five years.



The Route NN bridge over Honey Creek in Nodaway county was one of the first Safe & Sound bridges completed and opened to the public.

Larry Jacobson

### Seen From the Road

by M. Elaine Justus



You never know what you’ll find on our state highways. We’ve always wondered about the migratory patterns of the praying mantis. This fellow was on his way from the sculptor’s studio to Powell Gardens. There is also a lady bug sculpture that will join him (or her) there. Gary Dolan, the artist, tells us they’re designed for children to climb on.

Ellen Dolan



Fifteen-year-old Benton High School Student Caitlyn Morgan Strong was present to win the silver Mitsubishi Eclipse GS. Her mother (seen behind her) was even more excited than Caitlyn.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail  
3602 N. Belt Highway  
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

Elaine Justus  
816.387.2353  
margaret.justus@modot.mo.gov



# D2

## North Central

### A Day with Pete

by Tammy Wallace

One of the highlights for the district this spring was Director Pete Rahn's visit. On the agenda were opportunities to speak to citizens and MoDOT employees, hit the airwaves and even take a ferry ride.



District Engineer Dan Niec and MoDOT Director Pete Rahn talk it up on the radio show.

The first stop was the KWIX/KRES radio show in Moberly where Pete talked about what a great job MoDOT has been doing and noted some recent successes. One of those successes is that our major roads went from a 44 percent good condition rating six years ago to an 83 percent good condition rating today. "The jump can largely be attributed to Amendment 3 funding, which made it possible to implement the Smooth Roads Initiative and the Better Roads, Brighter Future program," said Rahn.

When asked about future funding, Pete discussed the vast difference by comparing the amount of funding we've been receiving thanks to Amendment 3, to the 2011 funding projection of only \$425 million, which is not even enough to fund our maintenance program.

On the brighter side of the funding issue, Pete mentioned that MoDOT has friends in the business community who are working with Missourians across the state to develop a funding plan for the future. Pete said the first step in developing a plan is to ask Missourians what they want and need from our transportation system.

After the show, Pete traveled to Macon to meet first with the district's EAEC and then with a larger group of about 100 employees. Pete began these meetings by thanking the employees for what they are doing. "The success the department has been enjoying over the past few years is directly related to the talented and dedicated employees who want to do a job," he said.



Pete Rahn speaking candidly with employees.

The group asked questions on several topics like the new cold-in-place recycling contract, our construction and maintenance programs, improvements for I-70, job security and even going green. The meeting was recorded and will be made available for the other employees who were not able to attend the meeting.

Then it was off to Chillicothe for lunch and a presentation to the Rotary. Along with his message of accomplishments and where we are heading with our funding, Pete noted how we have



Kevin James, Dan Niec and Pete Rahn take in the view from the bridge.

shown Missouri taxpayers that we are accountable, and that when given the resources, we can provide incredible projects, all the while keeping our administration costs at only two percent.

The last stop of the day was the visit to the Missouri River Bridge at Glasgow. All but two spans of the steel girders have been set and the concrete poured. Pete, Dan, and Assistant District Engineer Kevin James were able to walk onto

a completed section of the bridge to get a birds eye view of the construction, the river and the ferry.

After touring the bridge, the group crossed the river on the only ferry service available on the Missouri River. Once the bridge is opened to traffic in August, the ferry service will be discontinued.

Throughout the day several common themes were evident. Pete is very appreciative of the work MoDOT employees are doing and he thinks they do an excellent job; we have been very fortunate to enjoy the extra funding through Amendment 3, which has allowed us to do so much work across the state; we have been very accountable and are giving taxpayers a good value for the dollars they have entrusted to us; and lastly, we need to find a revenue stream that will allow us to continue making progress on our system.

We thank Pete for his visit and hope he will return very soon. It is always a pleasure to host him in the district.

### Smiling Faces all Around

Risk Management Technician and CPR Training Administrator Jamie Martin, along with her pictured helper, definitely has something to smile and to brag about. Today, 95.8 percent of the district's employees are certified

in CPR, the largest percentage ever in the district! Most importantly, Jamie and her real life helpers, the instructors, aren't finished yet. They've set a goal of 100 percent certified, and they intend to keep at it until they reach that goal.



Jamie Martin and her helper sport big smiles at their success.

"We've always put a big emphasis on the program," said Safety and Health Manager Shari Dye. "But this year with management's support we placed a special effort towards getting every employee certified."

It never hurts to have a couple of great success stories to share as well. Two employees used their CPR training within a few days of being certified. Risk

Management Technician Nancy Davis administered five back blows to her small son who was choking on a Life Saver. Although she had been trained for three years, she stated that had she not been recertified she may have panicked and not reacted as quickly and calmly.

A second success came for Senior Maintenance Worker Billy Joe Pearce. The very next day after his certification he found himself giving first aid to an

accident victim. Billy Joe realized the man was going into shock and followed through with the emergency action steps of Check-Call-Care to make sure 911 was called and then followed the steps to minimize shock.

According to Martin, these success stories prove that you never know if or when you will need to use these life saving skills. You might need to use them on a family member, a friend, or even a complete stranger.

### Alternate Route 63 Awarded

A contract to construct the north six miles of the Alternate Route 63 project was given the green light by the Commission in June. The contract



was awarded to C.J. Moyna and Sons Construction at a cost of \$17.4 million.

The six-mile stretch north of Route 6 East was accelerated about 18 months with funding received from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Construction on the six-mile section will begin this August and will open to traffic by August 2011.

Work to complete the purchase of right-of-way and the design plans for the 2.5-mile south section is ongoing. MoDOT will receive contractor bids in June 2010.

Before completion of this first project, the second project will begin. The entire 8.5 miles will be opened to traffic by the end of 2011.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail  
Route 63  
P.O. Box 8  
Macon, MO 63552

Tammy Wallace  
660.385.8209  
Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov



# D3

## Northeast

### Warrior Avenue Sports New Intersection

The Warrenton Warriors will return to school next month, and those students traveling along Route 47 will encounter an improved intersection, complete with traffic signals and turn lanes. The improvement was a partnership among MoDOT, the City of Warrenton and the Warren County R-3 School District. The original idea to improve the intersection was that of two high school students who graduated in 2005. The students approached both the school superintendent and Missouri State Representative Mike Sutherland. Since the project was not funded on MoDOT’s STIP, they approached the City of

Warrenton, then worked with MoDOT and Boonslick Regional Planning Commission. “It’s terrific to work with our communities to accomplish improvements,” said Northeast District Engineer Paula Gough. Kurt Kluesner, construction inspector who oversaw the project, flipped the switch to fully activate the signals while MoDOT Warrenton maintenance crews flagged traffic. The official opening of the intersection included a mini-parade of a MoDOT truck, a school bus, and a city police car all driving through a banner stretched across the intersection.



Chris Knapp, transportation project manager, Tom Batenhorst, district design engineer, and Ervin Fackler, area engineer, stretch the banner across the new intersection at Warrior Avenue and Route 47 in Warrenton while MoDOT maintenance supervisor Norman Hellebusch leads the mini-parade.

### District Honors Fallen Ones

8 | Northeast District employees honored their nine fallen co-workers by donating \$500 to the Fallen Workers’ Memorial Fund. “We kept it simple,” said Safety and Health Manager April Fohey. She is referring to the method in which the funds were raised. “We provided every work unit a decorated envelope and gave them 30 days to return it with donations,” she explained. “The response was great, and we appreciate the opportunity to be part of building a memorial that will honor those who have died on the job,” she added.



Cherie Brocaille, Mark Knickerbocker, April Fohey, Paula Gough, and Dave Silvester present Don Hillis with \$500 for the Fallen Workers’ Memorial Fund.

#### for more info

Community Relations Manager Marisa Brown  
Phone 573.248.2502  
E-mail marisa.brown@modot.mo.gov  
  
Route 61 South  
P.O. Box 1067  
Hannibal, MO 63401

### Lake Area Roads Benefit from ARRA Funding

Route J, one of the main highway arteries through Mark Twain Lake, was the first project completed in the Northeast District using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding. The resurfacing project also includes Routes EE and W, also feeders to the primary fishing

spot and tourist desination in northeast Missouri. “About seventy five percent of the vehicles on these roads are tourists and includes boats and campers alike, so we’re glad we were able to finish it ahead of the summer,” said Macy Rodenbaugh, construction and materials engineer.



Dusty Wilson, construction inspector (standing) oversees the resurfacing project on Route J near Mark Twain Lake (inset). The Lake boasts two million visitors each year, and several roads in the area are being resurfaced through the economic stimulus package provided by the federal government earlier this year.

### Around the District



In between rain days, several chip seals have already been completed in the Northeast District, including this one on Route 168 between Hannibal and Palmyra.



Always looking for ways to be more efficient ... A hydraulic batwing mower was used for a week in a few areas to determine if it would be a good investment for MoDOT. It is driven by hydraulic fluid instead of a power take-off shaft, and one of the main advantages is that one of the wings can be shut off during the operation. A disadvantage is that it would require changes to the tractors. The mower received mixed reviews in the Northeast District and is being tested in other districts.



D4

Kansas City Area

Jackson County Area Communities Join MoDOT in No MORE Trash! Bash

by Kerri Lewis

In a collaborative effort between MoDOT and Jackson County area communities, state officials and municipalities urged everyone to become litter free during the 2009 No MORE Trash! Bash Earth Day Event. The kick-off celebration was held on Earth Day, April 22, at the Bass Pro Shop, in Independence. Representatives from the Jackson



Beth Wright, District Engineer, spoke to the many participants in the Earth Day No MORE Trash! Bash Celebration.

County area, law enforcement, area landfills and MoDOT are working together in a pledge to fight litter across the Kansas City area.



Independence Mayor Don Reimel, Lee's Summit Mayor Karen Messerli and Blue Springs Mayor Carson Ross prepare to toss trash at the 2009 No MORE Trash! Bash at Bass Pro near I-470 and I-70.

Each year, area communities spend a large amount of time and money picking up trash along area roads and highways. Across the state, MoDOT and taxpayers spend more than \$5 million each year to help keep Missouri roads clean of litter. In the Kansas City area, MoDOT spends more than \$970,00 in an effort to help keep the area litter free. However, the cost

is much higher than any dollar amount. Members of the community are urged to become involved in the fight against litter. The No MORE Trash! Bash is just the beginning of a year-round litter-prevention campaign No MORE Trash!, a partnership of the Missouri Departments of Conservation and Transportation and thousands of volunteers. In 2008, thousands of people statewide picked up more than 84,000 bags of litter from Missouri's roadways, streams and other public areas. Join in the fight to make Missouri litter free in 2009. For more information, visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/nomoretrash](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/nomoretrash).

More Safe & Sound Ribbon Cuttings



Sen. David Pearce, center, joined MoDOT in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Route ZZ Bridge in Johnson County.

Rep. Bob Nance stands among representatives from MoDOT and RA Knapp and Sons to signify completion of Ray County's first Safe & Sound Bridge.



Platte County Commissioners stand on the new deck of the Route H Bridge, the district's first Safe & Sound Bridge, to cut the ribbon.

for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail

Kristy Hill  
816.622.6327  
[kristy.hill@modot.mo.gov](mailto:kristy.hill@modot.mo.gov)

600 NE Colbern Road  
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

kcICON Receives Major Award

by Jennifer Benefield

The kcICON Project design-build team received the American Road and Transportation Builders Association-Transportation Development Foundation's (ARTBA-TDF) PRIDE Award for its outstanding community relations work. MoDOT Community Relations Manager Jennifer Benefield accepted the award from ARTBA Senior Vice Chairman Larry Tate on May 19, 2009, in Washington, DC. Ten transportation design and construction firms and public agencies from across the country were recognized for excellence in community relations and public education.

The award submittal described the kcICON Project team's collaboration with a 12-member community advisory group (CAG). The CAG received 20 of the 100 total project points to evaluate the architectural style and bridge design aesthetics proposed by competing design-build teams. ARTBA's primary goal is to aggressively grow and protect transportation infrastructure investment to meet the public and business demand for safe and efficient travel. It provides programs and services designed to give its 5,000+ public and private sector members a global competitive edge.



Jennifer Benefield, Community Relations Manager for kcICON, receives the ARTBA-TDF PRIDE Award from ARTBA Senior Vice Chairman Larry Tate.



# D5

## Central

### Statewide Recognition for District Procurement Agent

by Holly Dentner

Central District Senior Procurement Agent Corey Duemmel recently received the 2008 Manager of the Year Award from the Missouri Association of Public Purchasing.

He was presented the award on May 14 at the association's conference in Lake Ozark. The award is given to a person in a management capacity that has exhibited high standards of professionalism and ethics, made significant contributions and provided outstanding service in public purchasing.

Duemmel was recognized in the "small entity" category, which covers organizations with five or fewer employees in their procurement division.

He has worked for MoDOT since 2001 and said he was pleased to receive the award. He believes the range and variety of his work, plus his involvement

with statewide purchasing projects, contributed to this recognition.

"I prepare quotes and bids for anything the district might need," said Duemmel. "The statewide projects offer me an opportunity to assist with bids and contracts on a larger scale and with a bigger impact."

Duemmel spends his days working on bids and quotes that support the needs of the District's Maintenance and other divisions.

"In addition to all our standard purchases, I also get to work on

a few more unusual projects," said Duemmel. "I've worked on bids for recycling our district's used oil in order to generate money and promotional contracts such as the Coalition for Roadway Safety's educational efforts with Mizzou Sports Properties."

The Missouri Association of Public Purchasing is a chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.



Holly Dentner

Senior Procurement Agent Corey Duemmel was awarded for his professionalism and outstanding service in public purchasing.

### Roundabout Proposed for Sedalia Intersection

Motorists in mid-Missouri may soon navigate a new roundabout on the state highway system, this time at the intersection of Route Y and Winchester Drive in Pettis County. The intersection is located just west of State Fair Community College in Sedalia. A public meeting was held on June 16 to gather input on the proposed work.

A roundabout accommodates traffic flow in one direction around a center circular island. It is a great alternative to a signalized intersection because it



allows for a high volume of traffic with the least amount of inconvenience. Roundabouts also require less maintenance than traditional signalized intersections.

The proposed roundabout would improve safety and traffic flow at Route Y by constructing the roundabout at the existing intersection location. Approximately \$400,000 is budgeted for the improvements, with funding made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Work could begin by the end of the year.

#### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail  
  
1511 Missouri Boulevard  
P.O. Box 718  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Kristin Gerber  
573.522.3375  
kristin.gerber@modot.mo.gov

### Around the District



The Sedalia maintenance crew places asphalt at the recently repaired Union Pacific railroad tracks on Route 50 in Pettis County.

Eddie Carroll

Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Brandon Campbell gets some help demonstrating a traffic counter during Take Our Children to Work day on June 10.



Shaun Schmitz

### Low-Water Crossings are a 'Practical' Solution

by Holly Dentner

Early this spring MoDOT completed work on three low-water crossings in Camden County that not only made travel on them safer and smoother, but also garnered recognition for their practical design and environmental benefit.

The three crossings were on county roads that cross the Little Niangua River, and were modified as part of MoDOT's mitigation efforts for the environmental impact of various construction projects in the Lake of the Ozarks area.

The work was recently recognized by MoDOT and the American Council of Engineering Companies as an outstanding achievement of practical design. The low-water crossings were selected as the winner in the "off system" project category.

"Implementing practical design on this project meant looking for a sensible and realistic way to address the situation," said Transportation Project Manager Nicole Hood.

From an environmental standpoint, the new crossings provide a great benefit to area wildlife. The new, higher crossings will allow for increased water flow, which improves fish migration, particularly for a federally threatened species called the Niangua Darter.

The new crossings also reduce maintenance needs and expenses. All three were designed to decrease the frequency

and duration of flooding, making it easier and safer for local residents, mail carriers, and school buses to use them.

"We are very pleased with the result on these three crossings and planning the same work on an additional crossing in Camden County," said Hood. "The Bannister Ford Crossing on County Road N-165 over the Little Niangua River is scheduled to begin over the summer and will follow a similar design and hopefully provide the same benefit."

While these routes are county roads, the economic and environmental benefit makes them ideal for MoDOT to help meet federal requirements for construction projects.

"Our standard mitigation efforts usually include planting trees or stabilizing nearby stream banks," said Hood. "These low-water crossings stand out as a way to improve the transportation system and provide a great benefit to the area's natural habitat and wildlife."



Holly Dentner

District Design Engineer Steve Engelbrecht, Transportation Project Designer Bob Jany, and Transportation Project Manager Nicole Hood accepted the award on behalf of the district. Hood says the Central Office Bridge and Environmental Divisions were also instrumental in completing the work.



# D6

## St. Louis Area

### Materials Inspector Recognized as Volunteer of the Year

by Nathan Allen

District 6 is filled with employees who constantly give their time to volunteer. Community Liaison, Shirlyn Myles, relies on some of those employees to make her various events possible. As a way to celebrate the 48 employees who volunteered at one of her events and the National Volunteer Month of April, Myles hosted a volunteer recognition luncheon in the spring.

“This was my way of saying ‘thank you’ to those individuals who helped without hesitation for my projects and events,” Myles said. “As Community Liaison, I cannot survive without their efforts.”

Out of the 48 employees, 11 were nominated for the “Volunteer of the Year” award.

“I thought about volunteers who volunteered at three or more events and went beyond the call of duty to help,” said Myles. “These 11 volunteers were always ready to lend a helping hand, were the first ones there and were the last ones to leave.”

The volunteers were allowed to vote for the nominee they thought best deserved the award, and Senior Materials Inspector, Betherny Williams, won the award. Williams is involved with employee mentoring, she organized and led a Job Shadow Day, where seven area high school students shadowed various MoDOT employees. Williams also speaks to the Future Society of Engineers, a society of college students, when asked.



Senior Materials Inspector Betherny Williams won the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Williams’ biggest volunteer project is her work with the Transportation and Civil Engineering (TRAC) program at Construction Careers High School in St. Louis. Williams goes to the high school once a month to speak to students about engineering and help them with various projects. Recently through the Construction Careers High School, District 6 had its first entry into TRAC’s National Bridge Building Competition.

“It is important for me to play a role in the educational advancement of our children’s future,” Williams said. “Many people gave their time unconditionally to make me into the person I am, I believe I must give back three times more.”

Williams also said that her main focus is to raise awareness for engineering and hopefully show the students that through hard work and determination anything is possible.



District Engineer Ed Hassinger and I-64 Project Director Lesley Hoffarth were joined by St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, other elected officials, Forest Park representatives and employees of Forest Park Hospital to open the Hampton Avenue bridge over I-64. The bridge opened on schedule May 22 after being closed for eight months for reconstruction.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager Marie Elliott  
Phone 314.340.4524  
Email yvonne.elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

### MoDOT Responds to I-270 Emergency Incident

by Jack Wang

District 6 employees were recently put to the test when an emergency situation occurred on Interstate 270 near the Route 370 overpass in the St. Louis region.

On Thursday May 21, a tractor-trailer carrying an oversized load caused an accident, and a traffic slowdown. The trailer lost its load, which rolled off the flatbed trailer and struck a girder and pier on the Route 370 overpass. It happened as the afternoon rush traffic was set to begin in just a few hours.

John Hodge, MoDOT Motorist Assist Operation Supervisor, Chris Stone, MoDOT Bridge Maintenance Supervisor and Chuck Dolejsi, MoDOT Regional Bridge Engineer, and Owen Hasson, Maintenance Superintendent all quickly arrived on the scene, and assessed the situation.

After speaking with MoDOT administration, everyone agreed to leave the load on the shoulder until after the evening rush hour.

Back at the Transportation Management Center (TMC), engineers worked efficiently to make sure traffic flowed smoothly during this critical time.

“We quickly realized that this incident would be one where management and others needed to be involved, so we initiated Incident Command,” said Teresa Krenning, Transportation Management Center Manager. “Within the hour we had our first briefing and two follow-up briefings later in the day. Everyone was well informed and cooperation among the TMC, field staff and management was astounding. As a result, there was minimal impact to the public because of the incident.”



An oversized load falls off a flatbed tractor-trailer, striking the girder on the eastbound Route 370 overpass at northbound Interstate 270. This view is looking south.

The far right lane and shoulder were closed to traffic as members of the emergency response team worked to figure out the best time to remove the load blocking traffic.

Chris Stone also conducted media interviews with television news crews that showed up on the scene. This incident became a prime example of dealing with an emergency incident response.

I felt that we all did a good job and all agencies worked very well together,” said Hodge. “The biggest hurdle was the time that the incident occurred, so close to rush hour and convincing the tow and police that it was best to leave it on the shoulder until rush hour was over.”

The towing companies couldn’t give emergency responders a definitive time on when the accident would be cleared before the evening rush hour.

Krenning credits TMC supervisors Alan Heathman and Phil Davis for taking the correct action and supporting their staff.

For Chris Stone, he’s seen all types of incidents in his 30 years with MoDOT.

“Its just another day at the office for us in the field we just expect the unexpected,” said Stone. “We try and learn something from each incident and that makes us better prepared to handle the next one.”

John Hodge agrees. “This was a team effort and it paid off,” said Hodge. “We don’t like these things to happen but we are getting good at it. That’s what makes me proud to be an employee of MoDOT.”

The incident was cleared several hours after the evening rush hour ended. Repairs to the girder are currently underway.



# D7

## Southwest

### District 7 Wins Chip Seal Challenge

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis



District 7 chip-seal forces captured first place in the 2008 chip-seal challenge for their coarse aggregate work on Newton County Route HH. Crews

won first place in 2006 for the chip seal on Barton County Route 126 and second place on Cedar/St. Clair County Route H in 2007.



The crew, headed by Monett Regional Maintenance Supervisor Ryan West and Neosho Regional Maintenance Supervisor Mark Willis, chip-sealed approximately 150 miles last summer.

The crew included employees from Seneca, Longview, Neosho, Joplin, Anderson, Cassville and Monett.

The employees split the \$5,000 first-place prize.

### Mt. Vernon Interchange Taking Shape



Neosho Construction Inspectors Greg Chapman, left, and Mike Copley check the compressive strength of the concrete on the new I-44/Route 39 interchange at Mt. Vernon. The interchange will be complete by the end of the year.

### District 7 Sends 30 Bikes to Jefferson City

by Wendy Brunner-Lewis

The Ride for Remembrance, a state-wide rally to raise funds for the Fallen Workers Memorial, roared into Jefferson City Saturday afternoon, June 13.

The organizer of the District 7 rally, Maintenance Superintendent Tim Houdyshell, said the district had approximately 30 motorcycles represent it.

“There were some glitches, of course, with this being the first year for the

event, but I think it went really well. Our riders seemed to have a good time.”

Riders from the Anderson and Neosho areas met with riders at the district office, and then the group picked up riders in Lamar, Nevada and El Dorado Springs before heading to Jefferson City. Riders from across the state gathered at the Central Office for food and fun, and to commemorate MoDOT’s fallen workers.



Tim Houdyshell attached the District 7 flag to the back of his bike.



Jesse and Rhonda Green, from Appleton City and Osceola respectively, take a break on their way to Jefferson City.

#### for more info

Community Relations Manager    Lori Marble  
Phone    417.629.3300  
E-mail    lori.marble@modot.mo.gov  
3901 E. 32nd Street  
Joplin, MO 64804



# D8

## Springfield Area



Dewayne Coffey, left, and Bub Jenkins of Ozark Maintenance.

### Teamwork and Attention to Detail Help D8 Win Chip Seal Challenge

by Angela Eden and Bob Edwards

Using the correct rock on a busy suburban roadway coupled with a high degree of teamwork and attention to detail added several years of service to Christian County Route NN in Ozark.

The effort also earned Maintenance forces in District 8 top honors for the second year in a row in MoDOT’s chip-seal challenge.

“The quality of the work was some of the best we’d seen,” said Matt Hiebert, a Central Office Community Relations coordinator and a non-engineer member of the judging team.

District 8 won first place in the “fine aggregate” category for the Route NN project in 2008. D8 also won last year in the “coarse aggregate” category for a 2007 chip-seal on Route 5 south of Lebanon.

Route NN, running north of Route 14/Business 65 in Ozark toward Route 60 between Springfield and Rogersville, goes through a growing residential area and sees lots of commuter traffic. Ozark High School and Ozark North Elementary School, located along the road, also generate considerable traffic.

Here’s a look at the project:

- Senior Pavement Specialist Brad Brown said a 1/4-inch-by-1/8-inch trap rock (Iron Mountain chat) fit the needs.
- “We had fine cracks in the road,” Brown said. It was thought that small aggregate would work well to seal it. It did.
- Avoiding excesses in rock and oil was an important factor in the judging,

Hiebert said. No rock windrows were left on the road and no piles of gravel were deposited in ditches. Nor did oil flush to the surface.

- The project required 20 maintenance workers from nine shops to do the job and everyone contributed to its success, said Ozark Senior Maintenance Workers Dewayne Coffey and Bub Jenkins, the lead equipment operators on the Route NN chip-seal and many others in recent years.

“We had a good team,” Coffey said. “If it weren’t for everybody on the crew, it wouldn’t be possible.”

Coffey runs the chip spreader and Jenkins drives an oil distributor.

- The Route NN chip-seal provided a smooth road, and that generated high marks, Hiebert said.

“Smaller rock, less noise,” Jenkins said.

The dark rock also looks good on the road, he said.

“I’m very proud of our crews,” District Engineer Kirk Juranas said.

The maintenance staff has worked hard to improve its chip-seal operations, selecting the right material for each job and refining the laydown process, Juranas said.

“This second win in the chip-seal challenge reflects how well our area crews have learned to coordinate their efforts to deliver one common objective,” said Juranas.



Bob Edwards

### D8 at Work

Seymour Maintenance Supervisor Doug Cron (top photo) mows along Route 60 near Macomb. He was part of a mowing operation that included maintenance workers from the Fordland, Seymour, Hartville, Manes and Mountain Grove shops and covered Route 60 between Springfield and Cabool.

Loading glass beads for a striping run along I-44 east of Springfield (middle photo) are Striping Senior Maintenance Worker Ray Pasley, left, and Signing Maintenance Crew Leader Chuck White. Driving a striping truck along I-44 near Marshfield (inset photo) is Striping Maintenance Crew Leader Jim Mezel, with Pasley and White operating the controls for the yellow median shoulder stripe and the white skips dividing the lanes. A Highway Patrol trooper provided a safety escort for the slow-moving striping train.

Checking progress on the Diverging Diamond Interchange project at Kansas Expressway and I-44 (bottom photo) is Springfield Intermediate Construction Inspector Jason Evenden, left. He is meeting with Dave Kabetske, center, and Luke Hubbard of Hartman Construction of Springfield.

“Talkin’ Transportation”  
Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield  
10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays  
radiospringfield.com

### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail  
3025 E. Kearney  
P.O. Box 868  
Springfield, MO 65801

Bob Edwards  
417.895.7713  
robert.edwards@modot.mo.gov



D9

South Central

# D9 Employees Rev Up Their Engines in Support of the Fallen Workers' Memorial

by Christi Turkleson

The sun was shining as motorcyclists from the South Central District participated in the Ride For Remembrance Rally on June 13. The ride began at 8 a.m. at the Highway Patrol Troop G Headquarters in Willow Springs and followed a scenic route to Jefferson City.

Participants in the ride said they feel a statewide Fallen Workers' Memorial is important. Intermediate Information Systems Technologist Larry Woodruff said, "I'm glad that someone has decided that we need to stand up and

recognize the fallen. I think a memorial is a great way to pay our respects to the ones that have mostly been forgotten until now."

Senior Materials Inspector, Curtis Dowden, said that he participated in the Ride For Remembrance because, "it's about people. Most people don't realize how dangerous it is out there in the roadway. It's a dangerous job."

Dowden said he feels he's been lucky in his twenty years of service, but knows that others have been less fortunate. "It

just takes a moment," he said. "If you get the least bit distracted it could be the end."

Throughout the day, riders enjoyed barbecue, participated in games and events, and visited various vendor booths. Participants said they felt the event was a success. "It was a great opportunity for employees to have fun while supporting a good cause," said Woodruff.

While South Central District has a memorial to honor the contributions of its fallen workers, employees fully support a statewide memorial. "It's

important that the contributions and sacrifice of these dedicated employees is not forgotten," said District Engineer Tom Stehn. "A statewide memorial that honors all of MoDOT's fallen workers would honor those who have made the largest sacrifice of all."

The South Central District has lost six employees in the line of duty:

Irwin C. Cudworth	1957
Ellis Suggs	1964
Curtis J. Mullins	1965
George "Bud" Whited	1989
Dennis R. Hayes	1995
Gerald T. Lizotte	2001



The South Central Ride For Remembrance riders.

## D9 Employees the Key to Success at Fort Leonard Wood Safety Days

by Christi Turkleson

Several South Central District employees participated in the biggest safety and health event ever held at Fort Leonard Wood on May 18. The fair was held by the Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood to provide information and training related to the safety and total wellness of soldiers, civilian employees and family members at the base. The event was free and open to the public, with local schools bussing in more than 150 children, grades K-6, to participate.

Inside, attendees were able to visit more than 40 vendors, including a MoDOT booth featuring information and handouts for visitors. MoDOT staff members were available to answer questions and educate participants on road safety issues.

Outside, attendees were able to participate in demonstrations and interactive activities relating to safety and health. MoDOT demonstrations included the Seat Belt Convincer, which emphasizes the importance of wearing your seat belt at any speed, and a driving activity that allows drivers to experience the difficulty of driving under the influence of alcohol. The Rollover Demonstrator was also on hand to show those attending what happens to unbuckled drivers during a rollover accident.

Major General Gregg F. Martin, Commanding General, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood, toured the booths and demonstrations. Major General Martin was complimentary of MoDOT and spoke to the troops about the importance of seat belt use.

According to Kelly Martin, Regional Coordinator for the Coalition for Roadway Safety, the event was a success for the South Central District because of the volunteers.

"The employees who volunteered were critical to the success of this event. Without them, we would not have been

able to have as large a presence at this significant event for Fort Leonard Wood," said Martin. This was the first time MoDOT participated and Martin said the long day was worth it. "I feel the event was a huge success for the coalition and will open many doors for future events with Fort Leonard Wood, as well as other organizations."



Dixon Senior Maintenance Worker Danny Bassett shares information with a young lady before she feels the effects of a 5 mph traffic crash while belted in the Seat Belt Convincer.

### for more info

Community Relations Manager  
Phone  
E-mail

910 Old Springfield Road  
P.O. Box 220  
Willow Springs, MO 65793

Christi Turkleson  
417.469.6203  
christina.turkleson@modot.mo.gov



# D10

## Southeast

### Sidewalk Improvements Make a Difference for Kennett Residents

by Marissa Van Robey

For those who travel primarily by sidewalk, improvements like those made to Route 84 in Kennett can make a huge difference.

“I see more and more people using power chairs as a mode of transportation,” said Kennett Mayor Roger Wheeler.

In response to the increasing number of power chair and electric wheelchair users in Kennett, sidewalk ramps were recently installed between Sonic and Route 25 along Route 84 in Kennett.

“We worked closely with the community to better understand its needs,” said Project Manager Eric Krapf. “Kennett residents and groups, such as the Bootheel Area Independent Living Services and Kennett Chamber of Commerce, were actively involved in the improvement process with D10.”

This project was funded through two federal programs. The Surface Transportation Program offers transportation funding to cities with populations greater than 5,000. The Transportation Enhancement program allows federal funding specific to pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Once the ramps were installed, District 10 quickly began receiving positive feedback from the residents. Kennett resident Shirley Magner was one of the first to share her experience with District 10 after traveling down the improved sidewalks.

“I am in an electric wheelchair, and I used the new ramps on First Street today for the first time,” Magner said. “I just wanted to say thank you.” Magner explained that the new ramps mean increased mobility and increased safety for Kennett residents.

“Before the sidewalk improvements, it was so nerve-racking,” she said. “By the time you got home, you didn’t even enjoy your day out.”

Magner described that prior to the improvements, she felt stressed by the surrounding traffic. She added that although she followed the rules when using her electric wheelchair along the roadway, she is sure that some drivers felt uneasy with the presence of the power chairs and wheelchairs.

“The sidewalk ramps are a big deal—not only for disabled people, but for people driving as well,” she said.



Kennett resident Shirley Magner (in photo above and to left) was one of the first to share with D10 about her increased mobility and increased safety, due to the improved sidewalks.

#### for more info

Community Relations Manager Nicole Thieret  
Phone 573.472.6632  
E-mail nicole.thieret@modot.mo.gov  
  
2675 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 160  
Sikeston, MO 63801

### Ribbon Cutting Held

Approximately a year ago, the groundbreaking for the Route 67/Old Orchard Interchange project was held and now the project is nearing completion. The new Orchard Road and northbound Route 67 off ramps are completed and open to traffic.

To celebrate the approaching completion of the Route 67/Old Orchard Interchange project, the Missouri Department of Transportation held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 4. The ceremony was held at the Parkland Health Center in Bonne Terre. The public and media were invited to attend. Speakers included: Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond; Heather Garner on behalf of U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson;

State Sen. Kevin Engler; State Rep. Linda Fischer; Bonne Terre Mayor Fritz Gower; and MoDOT Southeast Assistant District Engineer Cheryl Ball.

To improve safety and provide smoother traffic flow on heavily traveled Route 67 in St. Francois County, a new interchange was built at Route 67 and Old Orchard Road with several existing median crossings being removed in the area. The project included grading, drainage, and paving for construction of an outer road and interchange with Old Orchard Road. The \$7,743,813 contract was awarded in February 2008 to Iron Mountain Construction, Iron Mountain, Mo.



The Honorable Fritz Gower, Mayor of Bonne Terre, cuts the ribbon during the Route 67/Old Orchard Interchange ribbon-cutting ceremony. Others participating include: Presiding Commissioner Dr. David Cramp, Sen. Kevin Engler, Rep. Linda Fischer, Heather Garner on behalf of U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Tom Schulte on behalf of U.S. Sen. Kit Bond, Ron Steele with the SEMO Regional Planning Commission, and MoDOT Southeast Assistant District Engineer Cheryl Ball.

### D10 Projects Receive Pavement Awards

Three of Southeast District’s projects recently received the National Asphalt Paving Association’s award for Quality in Construction. The award-winning projects include I-55 in New Madrid County (Apex Paving Company), Route 60 in Stoddard County (Apex Paving Company) and I-55 in Perry County (APAC Missouri, Inc.).

“The projects won because the asphalt mix was consistent and of excellent

quality,” said District Construction and Materials Engineer Lynelle Luther. “The contractors for these projects were able to achieve excellent quality with the product on a daily basis.”

The I-55 project in New Madrid County also won the Missouri Asphalt Paving Association’s Award for Quality (under 50,000 tons). The state only recognizes two projects per year with this award.



Resident Engineer Brian Holt, District Construction and Materials Engineer Lynelle Luther, and Resident Engineer Darius Dowdy display three awards for paving projects in New Madrid, Stoddard and Perry Counties.



The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

**Community Relations**  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
P. O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573.751.2840  
[www.modot.org](http://www.modot.org)  
1-888 ASK MODOT

**Editor**  
Laura Holloway

**Design Coordinator**  
Dennis Forbis

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Laura Holloway, editor  
573.751.5985  
[Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov)

Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.



Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

Mission

*Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.*



Missouri Department of Transportation  
Community Relations  
105 W. Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PreSort Standard  
Permit #353  
Columbia, MO 65201

Return Service Requested

Next Generation Desktop Online Training Now Available

by Matt Hiebert

Next Generation Desktop is a much-needed update to our operating system and desktop software. Everyone who works with a computer at MoDOT will be affected.

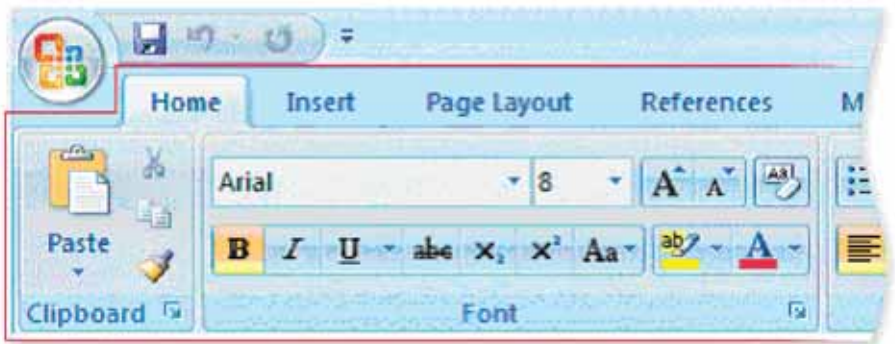
If you use any Microsoft Office products, you'll need to be familiar with some of the changes coming up. While the functionality of the software remains the same, there are changes to the menus and some of the processes, including a ribbon used to find commands.

To make sure you're ready, go to [wwwi](http://wwwi) and click on the Next Generation Desktop logo in the News and Events area. You'll find several options for online training and tutorials that will get you up to speed on these changes.

You can also go directly to these Microsoft Office 2007 online training sites.

<http://wwwi/intranet/hr/hred/Microsoft-Office2007.htm>

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/training/HA102255331033.aspx>



The Ribbon is a feature in Microsoft Office Word 2007. It is designed to help you quickly find the commands that you need to complete a task. Commands are organized in logical groups, which are collected together under tabs. Each tab relates to a type of activity, such as writing or laying out a page. To reduce clutter, some tabs are shown only when needed. For example, the Picture Tools tab is shown only when a picture is selected.

Bring on the Snow ... We'll Be Ready

by Kristi Jamison

If a snowflake tried to fall in the heat of a Missouri summer, it would never make it to the ground. But once winter rolls around, our crews will have to be prepared for the challenges brought on by snow, ice and sleet. That's why MoDOT maintenance staff will soon be putting their noses to the grindstone, or should we say asphalt, to train well in advance for the next snow fight.

In really just a change of a name, districts will conduct a Snow Academy this year. Each district will still have

an option to run their academy like the District Rodeo competitions, but there will no longer be a statewide Rodeo competition.

Nevertheless, the overall objective remains the same. The Snow Academy will ensure workers have the knowledge and skills that are necessary to remove snow and ice safely, effectively and efficiently.

"The skills part of the Rodeo is what got us ready for winter," said System

Management Director Don Hillis. "We wanted to give the districts more flexibility in how they carried out snow removal training. Under the Snow Academy, they can better tailor the training exercises to the needs of their area and their personnel."

Each district will host a Snow Academy in September or October in preparation for winter operations. District supervisory staff will serve as judges.

Since the Snow Academy is a training assessment program, all full-time maintenance staff and other full-time staff who are routinely called on to plow snow will be required to participate. Results will be used to identify additional employee training needs.

All participants must successfully complete basic operational classes before they can participate in the Snow Academy. The skills training will remain the same with staff being rated on both pre-trip inspections and obstacle courses for the snow plow truck and loader, and they will need to take a written test. (A

study guide is available on the Intranet at [wwwi](http://wwwi).)

Participants will also have to take part in two non-rated training activities, such as tire chain installation, GL-400 calibration and operation, wing plow or tow plow operation, snow plow and cinder bed installation and/or snow route plans and priorities.

Each participant will have the opportunity to fill out an online evaluation form to rate this training opportunity. Forms will be available in October on the Intranet, [wwwi](http://wwwi), on EAC computers, which are located in every maintenance facility.

"The Snow Academy will provide a more comprehensive training," Hillis said. "Our maintenance crews will have everything they need to be fully prepared for the winter season." Everything, that is, except the white stuff.

